



The National Sporting Library NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

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Library Breaks Ground for National Sporting Art Museum

On September 19, members of the Board of Directors of the National Sporting Library hosted a ceremony and reception to mark the groundbreaking of the National Sporting Art Museum (NSAM).

"It's a very important milestone in the history and evolution of the National Sporting Library," remarked Manuel H. Johnson, Chairman of the Board. When the renovated museum holds the grand opening of its inaugural exhibit in 2011, eleven galleries will feature exhibitions of NSAM's permanent collection of American and European sporting art as well as temporary exhibits. NSAM and the National Sporting Library will serve as a unified campus under the umbrella of the National Center for Sporting Art and Literature.

Almost 100 people attended the afternoon reception and festivities. Led by Johnson, seven members of the NSL's Board of Directors, many with shovel in hand, stood on the front lawn of the Vine Hill mansion and broke ground for the new museum.

During the presentation in the Founders' Room, Architect Hardee Johnston of Scottsville, Va., presented the architectural renderings and floor plans of the 13,000 square ft. museum. "From the start it has been a fitting marriage of a unique program with a much-loved architectural treasure of this community, the Vine Hill mansion," said Johnston. "Our response to the program has been sensitive not only to this early 19th-century building but also to the setting which is fittingly at the edge of the countryside where it meets the town." Johnston explained that the new brick



The architect's rendering of the National Sporting Art Museum.

Federal revival addition will be in keeping with the historic Vine Hill mansion built in 1804.

Extending from the west side of Vine Hill, the addition will feature a raised, enclosed portico on its south side that complements the existing one, and a copper-clad and glass section between will serve as a visual break between the old and new structures. The entrance to the new building will open onto a large gallery with another spacious gallery on the second floor. The increased gallery space will allow NSAM to hold as many as four exhibitions at one time, said Johnston. The basement level will house the working spaces of the museum, including art storage, a receiving area and loading dock, the mechanical room, and staff offices.

Ron Steele, NSAM's project manager and liaison with the general contractor, Grunley Construction, spoke about the building phases. Prior to the groundbreaking, George Bridge Boxwoods, Inc., relocated the trees and boxwoods from the Library's formal garden, and they will be replanted on the museum's west side once all construction is complete.

Steele explained that contractors would strip the interior walls of the Vine Hill mansion down to the brick in order to install a vapor barrier and state-of-the-art HVAC system needed to maintain optimum conditions within the gallery for the artwork. All architectural trim and finishes from Vine Hill will be salvaged and later reinstalled in the galleries. The mansion's third section – a non-his-

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Groundbreaking

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toric wing added during the 20th century – will be removed in order to connect the mansion with the new building.

Steele explained the underpinning process that will be the next phase in the construction. Workers will dig 20 feet below the building's existing foundations to create a deeper space to accommodate the museum's basement level and will pour the concrete foundation for the new building by late winter. The floors of Vine Hill will be reinforced in order to bear the increased load of exhibit cases.

Once the foundations are complete, the contractor will begin to raise the walls and roof of the new building in the late winter and early spring of 2010.

The contractor, Grunley Construction of Rockville, Md., has an extensive portfolio of work on building and renovating museums and historic sites in the greater Washington area, including the Hillwood Museum and Gardens, the Riversdale House Museum, the Eisenhower Old Executive Office Building, the Smithsonian, and the Library of Congress.

Board member F. Turner Reuter, Jr., the Chair of the Exhibit and Collections Committee, concluded the remarks by outlining the exhibition that will open at NSAM in the spring or summer of 2011, "Afield in America: Four Hundred Years of Animal and Sporting Art, 1585-



Members of NSL Board of Directors (left to right): F. Turner Reuter, Jr., Jacqueline Ohrstrom, Clarke Ohrstrom, Manuel H. Johnson, Charles T. Akre, Jr., Jacqueline B. Mars, and Dr. Betsee Parker

1985." "It will be a landmark exhibition designed to educate the general public about animal and sporting art and to raise the awareness of the importance of these works as a reflection of American history and cultural life," said Reuter. "Over 100 outstanding examples of every category of the genre will be selected to show how American animal and sporting artists have developed a unique national style, reflective of the diversity of our people, the rich variety of our wildlife, and the breadth of the natural landscape."

Reuter and the museum's curato-

rial staff will display art from NSAM's permanent collection in this exhibition and borrow works from museums and private collections. "Afield in America" will not only showcase such masters of American art as Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins, and Alfred Bierstadt and established sporting artists such as Edward Troye and Frederic Remington; but will also highlight lesser-known artists in the genre such as William Dunton, Anna Hyatt Huntington, and Gustave Muss-Arnolt. Curatorial staff, art historians, and other scholars will contribute essays to a color catalogue that will accompany the exhibition.

The \$4.4-million construction project would not have been possible without the generosity of many donors as well as the participation and hard work by members of the Vine Hill Committee, Library staff, Grunley, and consulting institutions such as the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts who advised the Library during the design process. Through the dedication and financial commitments of many, what is now just a watercolor rendering will soon become a brick-and-mortar reality that thousands will enjoy for years to come.

Plans of the museum may be viewed online at www.nsl.org/vinehill.html.



F. Turner Reuter, Jr., Joseph Keusch; NSL Vice Chairman Jacqueline B. Mars; Hector Alcalde

Summer John H. Daniels Fellows

This summer and fall, the Library hosted four John H. Daniels Fellows – Dorothy Ours, Elisabetta Deriu, Charles Calhoun, and Pia Cuneo. Ours, Deriu, and Calhoun participated in a Roundtable discussion on August 22.

Author and journalist **Dorothy Ours** spent late May through August exploring "Battleship and the Grand National Quest." Ours, who worked at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is the author of *Man o' War: A Legend Like Lightning* for St. Martin's Press. She is preparing a book on Man o' War's son, Battleship, who won England's Grand National steeplechase in 1938 at age 11 for his owner, Marion duPont Scott. Nicknamed "the American pony" by the British press, Battleship stood only 15.2 hands yet resembled his great sire in appearance and heart. His 17-year-old jockey, Bruce Hobbs, was unusually tall at 6' 1." Hobbs' father, Reginald, trained Battleship in England for the great race.

Ours is also researching Battleship's human connections, including gentlemen rider/trainers Noel Laing and Carroll K. Bassett. Owner Marion duPont Scott, of the historic Montpelier estate near Orange, Va., was an accomplished horsewoman herself, winning blue ribbons at Madison Square Garden and serving as MFH for the Montpelier Hunt. Ours would love to talk with anyone who remembers Battleship and his connections, and may be contacted by email at dorothyours@aol.com.

A Virginia native, Ours grew up in the Old Dominion and in West Virginia. She graduated from West Virginia University with a B.F.A. in Theatre. A lifelong racing fan, Ours has written for *Thoroughbred Times*, *Equus*, and *Newsday*. She currently lives in Stockton, N.J.

Historian **Elisabetta Deriu, Ph.D.**, traveled to the United States from Paris to spend the month of August at the Library working on her project, "The International

Fortune of an Early 17th c. Handwritten Horsemanship Treatise: Valerio Piccardini's *Scritti di Cavaleria*."

Deriu was born and raised in Cagliari, Italy, on the island of Sardinia. A lifelong rider herself, Deriu wrote her dissertation at the University of Paris on "The Horse and the Court: Horsemanship in Italian and French Princely Courts, 1450-1620." Valerio Piccardini, the author of the NSL's manuscript, "*Scritti di Cavaleria*," (Writings on



Elisabetta Deriu, Charles Calhoun, and Dorothy Ours

Horsemanship), taught at a riding academy in Padua (near Venice) and also worked in Florence, where his father, Rustico, and brother, Ottaviano, served the Medici grand-ucal court.

In the Renaissance, classical or manege riding belonged to the sphere of the ruling classes, and young European aristocrats flocked to Italy to learn from riding masters such as Piccardini, whose treatise is dedicated "*à Sig. suoi Scolari*" ("to his students"). The name of a German prince, Fabian, the Burgrave of D'hona (a town near Dresden), appears on the manuscript's title page, and Deriu believes that this prince may have acquired the treatise as a souvenir of his study in Italy at Piccardini's academy.

Deriu identified the second treatise bound together with Piccardini's

writings as a handwritten copy of Florentine riding master Lorenzino Palmieri's *Perfette Regole et Modi di Cavalcare* (Perfect Rules and Methods of Riding). The NSL owns a 1625 printed edition of Palmieri's treatise in the Hünersdorf Collection.

"The NSL is unique in that it offers the researcher the opportunity to examine and compare multiple items *at once*," said Deriu, remarking that many research libraries in Europe restrict the number of books requested at one time.

The NSL's manuscript is one of three known copies of Piccardini's treatise in the world. The British Library owns one, and a third copy

was acquired at auction by a collector in Belgium. Deriu is examining all three for watermarks, which can help determine when and where the manuscript was produced.

Charles Calhoun investigated the history of American foxhunting for his project, "Going British: The Anglicizing of American Hunting with Hounds, 1865-1930." Calhoun is approaching his subject from the perspective of a social and cultural historian. The early history of the sport in North America is not very well-

documented, says Calhoun. In the 18th century, George Washington kept careful records of his hounds but the hunting itself was quite informal. All this changed after the Civil War, when foxhunting in America became increasingly formalized and Anglicized. Wealthy industrialists and businessmen from New York and Boston flocked to the Virginia countryside to foxhunt and buy land. American hunts increasingly hired professional hunt staff from England. Between 1865 and 1930, approximately 100 new hunts were established. Calhoun sees the development of American foxhunting as part of a broader societal fascination with all things British – from the proliferation of English-style boarding schools to the rise of the Episcopal church.

Calhoun values the exchange of ideas that the fellowship program

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NSL Staff & Volunteers – Comings and Goings

Rick Stoutamyer was appointed Director of Administration in mid-August. He is overseeing the daily functioning of the Library and the building's physical plant as well as coordinating volunteers, interns, and docents. Rick is also working closely with Project Manager Ron Steele on shepherding the National Sporting Art Museum through the construction process and securing the necessary building permits from town and county agencies. Rick is no stranger to the Library, and has volunteered since the mid-1990's when the Library was housed in the basement of the Vine Hill mansion. Rick helped move books to the new building in 1999, and in 2007, appraised the Library's entire book collection. In 2007, Rick presented a Treasures of the Rare Book Room lecture on collecting rare books.



Rick Stoutamyer

Born and raised in West Virginia, Rick attended West Virginia University in Morgantown and the National Institute of Technology in Cross Lanes. From 1989 to 2003, he worked for Raytheon in Springfield, Va., managing contracts with the federal government. In 1997, he established Stoutamyer Fine Books, specializing in rare and out-of-print sporting books. Rick and his wife, Kim, live in Marshall, Va., and their daughter, Kelsie, is a freshman at George Mason University.

Karen Halver, long-time employee of the NSL, resigned at the end of August to return to California to be with her father. Her mother passed away earlier in the summer.

Karen was hired in June 2001 as Assistant to the Director under then Library Director Kenneth Tomlinson and served in the same position under Acting Director Rebecca Tomlinson. Since 2005, Karen worked for Nancy H. Parsons, President & CEO, who departed the NSL in mid-August.



Karen Halver

Karen worked closely with NSL leaders to manage donor correspondence and to develop and maintain the fund raising database. Karen also worked closely with the directors and staff to plan and organize numerous fund raising events for the Library, including special luncheons and dinners for the Chairman's Council and Ivy Circle, and the 2004 and 2007 NSL Coaching events. She also served as Secretary of the Board from 2007 until her departure. Karen will be missed by all for her friendship and years of service to the Library.

Tria Pell Dove, a volunteer at the Library since 1999, has retired from her volunteer service and moved to be near family in upstate New York.

Tria was the NSL's 2003 Volunteer of the Year and worked tirelessly on many projects including primary organization of the Harry Worcester Smith papers, Marshall Hawkins and Wally Nall photograph collections, and the Richard Stone Reeves archives.

Tria and former volunteer, George Hottel, collaborated on shelf reading. Tria also managed the periodical collection, inventoried donated books, and assisted with events.



Tria Pell Dove

Before departing, Tria enlisted her friend, Margaret Littleton, of Middleburg, as a new volunteer. Margaret now manages the periodicals and will assist with book donations. While we will miss Tria, we are so thrilled to have Margaret on board!



—Lisa Campbell & Elizabeth Tobey

Welcoming Old Friends: Recent Art Donations



Peter Winants, Jr., and Peter Winants, III, of Bluemont, Va., son and grandson of Peter Winants, pose with the Voss portrait of *Alligator* (oil on canvas, 28 x 36 inches).

In July the National Sporting Library received two artworks as gifts the families of Mr. Peter Winants, and Mr. Henry Rathbun. Both works have previously been exhibited at the Library.

Alligator, donated by the children of Peter Winants, was painted in 1929 by Franklin Brooke Voss (1880-

1953). It was a favorite painting of Peter's and graced the cover of his 2005 book, *The Sporting Art of Franklin B. Voss*. This portrait of the timber horse differs from Voss's usual composition of depicting the horse with jockey up. *Alligator* was part of the exhibition, *The Voss Family, Artists of American Sporting*



Henri Delattre (French/American, 1801-1876)
Carriage Horse with a Docked Tail, 1854
oil on board
8 x 10 inches
Gift from the family of Mr. Henry "Duffy" Rathbun

Life, which closed this past February at the Library.

Also donated in July was *Carriage Horse with a Docked Tail* by Henri Delattre, painted in 1854, by the family of Mr. Henry "Duffy" Rathbun. Mr. Rathbun, who passed away in March of this year, was a great supporter of the Library, attending nearly every event since he joined the Chairman's Council in 2000. *Carriage Horse* was one of Mr. Rathbun's favorite paintings, depicting a chestnut carriage horse standing at attention in a pastoral landscape. The painting was briefly loaned to the NSL in 2007 (see Spring 2007, p. 11, for story and photo).

—Brenna Elliott

William Secord Booksigning



William Secord and NSL Chairman of the Board, Manuel H. Johnson

On October 8, William Secord, a world-renowned expert on 19th-century dog painting, lectured at the Library and signed copies of his new book, *Dog Painting: A History of the Dog in Art*. Secord owns the William Secord Gallery in N.Y., N.Y., and is the former director of the American Kennel Club's Museum of the Dog.

NSL/Chronicle Cup



Rick Stoutamy, Manuel H. Johnson, and Mrs. George L. Ohrstrom, Jr., (first three on left) present the NSL/Chronicle Cup to Magdalen O. Bryant's Erin go Bragh (ridden by Paddy Young and trained by Doug Fout) on October 3, 2009 at the Virginia Fall Races, Middleburg.

Douglas Lees

Recent Book Donations

Jacqueline B. Mars, The Plains, Va. – *The Art of Power: Royal Armor and Portraits from Imperial Spain*, by Álvaro Soler Del Campo (2009). Catalog of exhibition at the National Gallery of Art.

Jacqueline L. Ohrstrom, The Plains, Va. – *Betty Babcock's Hunting Diary: Meadow Brook Hounds, Season 1935-1936*, by Betty Babcock. Signed by the author.

William H. Klimon, Herndon, Va. – *The Ryan Family and the Scarteen Hounds* (1989), by Michael MacEwan, *Huntington Library Lists, No. 2 – Sporting Books* (1937), compiled by Lyle H. Wright, and *The Fox in the Cupboard: A Memoir* (2004) by Jane Shilling.

Mary Winants, Rectortown, Va., - 1941-1943 Elkridge-Harford Hunt hunting diary kept by the late Peter Winants.

Gregory G. Bean, Director of Public Works, Department of the Army, Ft. Bragg, N.C. - *Overhills Oral History* (2009) by Jeffrey D. Irwin and Kaitlin O'Shea, and a DVD, *Overhills North Carolina*.

Andrea Heid, Virginia Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Richmond, Va. - 2006 *Virginia Equine Survey Report*, as well as promotional pamphlets, publications, and material.

Robin Bledsoe, Cambridge, Mass. – Nine AHSA rule books and supplements and 16 equestrian books in German from the collection of Dr. H.L.M. Schaik.

Palette Press, Newark, Notts, U.K. – *Lynwood Palmer: 1868-1941, Equestrian Artist, Whip & Horseman* (2009) by Robert Fountain & Neil Kennedy.

Hal Chaffee, Chicago, Ill. - *Saratoga Polo 2008 Summer Season Guide*, Aiken Polo 2005, 2008, 2009.

Jackie Burke, Orlean, Va. - *American Horse Show Assoc., Inc.: Official Horse Show Record*, vols. 1-3, for 1934-1936, *The Kentucky Derby Churchill Downs 1984 program*, one issue of *Equus*, Nov. 1999.

Lee Day Rose, Orlean, Va. - *Thoroughbred Bloodlines: An Elementary Study, Volume I*, by John F. Wall, 1935, #71 of 150 copies printed, and signed by the author; *Thoroughbred Bloodlines: An Elementary Study, Volume II*, by John F. Wall, 1939, signed by the author; and *Thoroughbred Pedigrees 1934: Tabulated Pedigrees of Prominent Race Horses and a Bloodline Analysis of Important Stallions at Stud in the United States* edited by J. A. Estes, 1935.

Elizabeth Tobey, Middleburg, Va. – *Tsars and the East*, exhibition catalogue from the Sackler Gallery, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Horace Laffaye, M.D., Southport, Conn. – A copy of his new book, *The Evolution of Polo* (2009).

Recent Acquisitions

William Gibson, Surgeon, *A New Treatise on the Diseases of Horses, Vol. I & II*, London: Printed for A. Millar, 1754.

Harry Heiover, *A Treatise on the Proper Condition for All Horses*, London: T. C. Newby, 1857.

[Richard Brookes], *The Art of Rock and Sea-Fishing with the Natural History of River, Pond, and Sea-Fish*, London: Printed by and for John Watts, 1740.

W. Carroll, *The Angler's Vade Mecum, Containing a Descriptive Account of the Water Flies...*, Edinburgh: Printed for Archibald Constable and Co., 1818.

John Beard, *A Diary of Fifteen Years Hunting, from 1796 to 1811*, Bath: for the author by W. Meyler and Son, 1813.

Livre journal de Depenses des Equipages et des Ecuries (Equestrian accounting book), [Paris]: 1752-1766.

"Stonehenge" [John Henry Walsh, 1810-1888], *Hints to Sportsmen, on guns and shooting, and instructions relating to dogs, ponies, ferrets, etc.*, London: George Rutledge and Sons, Inc., n.d.

Fairfax Harrison, *Landmarks of Old Prince William: A Study of Origins in Northern Virginia in Two Volumes*, Vol. 1 & 2, Richmond: Privately Printed The Old Dominion Press, 1924.

Preston J. Jennings, *A Book of Trout Flies*, New York: The Derrydale Press, 1935.

Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise noted, all events are open to the public. RSVP to Judy Sheehan at 540-687-6542 x 10 and leave a contact number. **Many recent events have had wait-lists. If you RSVP and then are unable to attend a scheduled event, please call so we can give your place to someone else.**

Exhibition: F. Ambrose Clark Rare Book Room: *Afternoon Delights*. Forrest E. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall. Through April 1, 2010.

Saturday, November 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Full-Day Public Symposium: *A River Never Sleeps: Conservation, History, and the Fly Fishing River*. Pre-registration required, \$75 (regular)/\$50 (students). **Contact Elizabeth Tobey at 540-687-6542 x 11 or etobey@nsl.org to register.**

Saturday, December 12, 2 p.m., Saturday Public Lecture Series: "Happy Reading and Riding," children's program and booksigning by author JoAnn Dawson ("Lucky Foot" series).

Book reviews can now be read online at <http://www.nsl.org/bookreviews.html>

Fellows

continued from page 3

encourages. "Research is a solitary business," he commented. "To be able to exchange ideas with colleagues here – whether fellow researchers or NSL staff members – is an immeasurable benefit of the program."

Born in Monroe, La., Calhoun earned his B.A. at the University of Virginia and studied Jurisprudence in England as a Rhodes Scholar at Christ Church at Oxford University. He is a Scholar-in-Residence at the Maine Humanities Council, and has written several books, including a biography of American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Calhoun has foxhunted in central Mass., with the Old North Bridge Hounds. He and his partner, Michael Horvath, now live in New York City.

Pia Cuneo, Ph.D., spent the month of September looking at 16th- and 17th-century horsemanship manuals from Italy and Great Britain. Cuneo is writing a book, *Reading, Writing, Rendering, and Riding: Early Modern German Horsemanship Manuals and the Exercise of Identity*. The books in the NSL's collections served as an important comparison to similar books produced in Germany. "The NSL's excellent and extensive holdings of Italian and British books greatly facilitated my research by allowing me to consult these numerous and crucial sources all in one location," said Cuneo.



Pia Cuneo

Manege riding, known today as dressage, originated in Italy but also spread to Germany and spawned the production of the printed horsemanship manuals that Cuneo is analyzing in her book. "The kind of horse one rode and how one rode it served as eloquent testimony to one's socio-economic identity in early modern Europe," remarked Cuneo.

Cuneo grew up in the Midwest and attended Mount Holyoke College in Mass., and earned her doctorate from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. Since 1990 she has taught Renaissance art history at the University of Arizona in Tucson, and currently competes at dressage shows with her Belgian Draft/Paint cross, StellaStar.

Cuneo presented a Treasures of the Rare Book Room lecture on Sept. 24, "Georg von Löhneysen's 'On Biting' (1588): Renaissance Horsemanship Straight from the Horse's Mouth." Her article on the Löhneysen treatise appeared on the cover of the Summer 2009 newsletter.

Fellowship News

The application deadline for 2010-2011 fellowships is **February 1, 2010**. For more information, contact Elizabeth Tobey at 540-687-6542 x 11 or etobey@nsl.org or visit <http://www.nsl.org/fellowship.html>.

Dr. Horace Laffaye, M.D., (2009), gave the Library a copy of his book, *The Evolution of Polo*, recently published by McFarland & Co. His book, *The History of Polo in the United States*, will be released in Spring 2010.

Dr. Michael Huggins (2008) published his research conducted at the NSL as an article, "The proto-globalisation of Horseracing 1730-1900: Anglo American Interconnections," in *Sport in History* 29:3.

Amy Freund (2008) will present a lecture, "Pray, Sir, Whose Dog Are You? Nobility and Animality in Eighteenth-Century French Hunting Pictures," at the February 2010 meeting of the College Art Association in Chicago, Ill.

Susan McHugh (2008) has secured a book contract from University of Minnesota Press for *Animal Narratives: Forms of Species and Social Agency* for publication in 2010.

Noel Mullins (2008) has been invited to lecture on his research on Edith Somerville and Martin Ross in Dublin, Ireland, as part of the Royal Dublin Society's 2010 Speaker Series.

Pia Cuneo, Elisabetta Deriu, and Elizabeth Tobey presented lectures at an international conference honoring historian, Peter Edwards, at Roehampton University in London, England, in June, called "The Renaissance and Early Modern Horse."



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The National Sporting Library wishes to recognize and thank the following Ivy Circle members whose donations to the Library are \$5,000 and above, and the Chairman's Council members whose donations are \$2,500 and above. These contributions form the foundation of financial support for the Library's operations. We are grateful for gifts at all levels, and we thank our many donors and friends.

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